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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7827**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 482

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 28, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Voter Registration.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lawson C

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Thomas

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed Senate

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
X **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill has the following provisions:

(A) The bill amends procedures for processing incomplete or late registration applications or transfers and for forwarding applications between county voter registration offices.

(B) The bill makes changes relating to the location of voter registration form distribution sites and "full service" voter registration sites.

(C) The bill requires that a downloadable version of the current registration by mail form be published on the Election Division web site. The bill removes references to providing paper copies of registration forms.

(D) The bill requires the statewide voter registration list and each of its components to be used solely for voter registration and election administration purposes, except as otherwise specified by law. The bill prescribes procedures for making certain voter registration data from the statewide voter registration list available.

(E) The bill permits circuit court clerks to use the statewide voter registration list to certify official returns from presidential primaries in the same manner that other election results may be certified using the list.

(F) The bill requires a local health officer to make information concerning the Social Security numbers of deceased individuals available to the secretary of state and election division for voter list maintenance. Updates obsolete references.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; July 1, 2005; January 1, 2006.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (C) Under the bill, the Election Division would no longer be required to offer voter registration by mail forms in printed form. The Election Division could realize a minimal cost savings from this provision.

*Background:* As of December 2004, the Election Division had 13 staff positions. Four positions: a systems analyst, an unclassified executive position, a Governor's fellow, and a PAT 1 attorney were vacant. The other 10 positions included one attorney, two field auditors, two unclassified executive positions, two program coordinators, and two administrative personnel. The Election Commission/Division reverted \$63,947 back to the state General Fund at the end of FY 2004. The Election Division was appropriated \$794,571 in FY 2004 and \$725,571 in FY 2005. The Election Division had printing costs of about \$260 for forms and \$2,200 for non-forms in FY 2004.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** (D) Under current law, the Election Division is required to provide complete compilations of voter information to the following:

- (1) The state committee of a major political party.
- (2) The state organization of a bona fide political party that is not a major political party if the party has at least two candidates on the ballot in the next election.
- (3) The committee of an independent candidate for federal or state office if the candidate is on the ballot in the next general election.
- (4) A member of the media for publication in a news broadcast or newspaper.
- (5) The Speaker of the House, Minority Leader of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Minority Leader of the Senate.

The Election Division is required to charge a fee for a compilation. The fee may not exceed \$200 per county of data requested for a maximum charge of \$18,400 for all 92 counties. Information on the actual fee that the Election Division charges per compilation is currently unavailable.

Under the bill, the above entities would be able to request from the Election Division a complete compilation of voter information in the computerized list. With the exception of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, as added by the bill to the list of recipients, or a registered voter requesting information about themselves, the Election Division would charge \$5,000 per copy of the compilation. Revenue for this provision would be distributed into the state General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Under the bill, county voter registration offices would see an increase in administrative responsibilities with respect to the computerized voter registration list.

(F) The bill would require the local health officer to disclose the social security numbers of deceased persons to the Secretary of State and the Election Division for the purpose to maintain the computerized voter registration list. The provision would likely require a minimal increase in administrative time for the local health officer.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Election Division.

**Local Agencies Affected:** County voter registration offices, local health officer.

**Information Sources:** *State of Indiana HRM Detail Staffing Report, December, 2004*; State Budget Agency: *FY2004 General and Rainy Day Fund Summaries*; State of Indiana: *List of Appropriations July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2005*; BUDSTARS

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